

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 968

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor Chief Ed Mitchell and the Maryville Fire Department upon earning accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who are willing to sacrifice their personal convenience and concerns to ensure our individual and collective safety; the men and women who proudly serve as firefighters have chosen a profession which more than occasionally places them in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and its municipalities are fortunate to have highly effective and qualified fire departments whose personnel pride themselves upon their high standards and professional expertise; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who comprise the Maryville Fire Department, under the exceptional tutelage of Chief Ed Mitchell, represent an exemplary group of citizens who train and work tirelessly because of their overwhelming desire to serve others, with no expectation of gratitude or reward; and

WHEREAS, the Maryville Fire Department has received accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International; the department is one of only three fire departments in Tennessee and 122 in the nation to receive accreditation; and

WHEREAS, in order to be accredited, members of the Maryville Fire Department prepared a strategic plan establishing written goals and objectives, and then underwent self-assessments in which 270 performance indicators were measured, documented, and evaluated by the department; and

WHEREAS, the department also drafted a community risk assessment standard of coverage document that required a physical survey of all 792 commercial properties in Maryville; the properties were assessed for the risk posed by life hazard, community impact, life

impact, water supply, building usage, building construction, number of stories, square footage, and exposures; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Chief Mitchell, along with Deputy Chief David Hodges, Lt. Mike Caylor, and Lt. Randy Thompson traveled to Nevada to participate in a final presentation before the commissioners of the Center for Public Safety Excellence; and

WHEREAS, throughout the accreditation process, the assessment team praised the members of the Maryville Fire Department for its door-to-door smoke detector program and its working relationship with the city's organizational and emergency agencies; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2008, Maryville Fire Department officials learned that they had been recommended to become an accredited agency; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2008, the department received an accreditation plaque to be displayed in the Maryville Municipal Center; the plaque serves as a testament to the diligence and dedication of the members of the Maryville Fire Department who are nobly determined to be held accountable for standards of excellence; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should pause to specially honor and recognize the exceptional effort and dedication shown by Chief Ed Mitchell and the honorable firefighters of the Maryville Fire Department; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Chief Ed Mitchell and the firefighters of the Maryville Fire Department upon attaining accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, thank them for their devoted service to the citizens of Tennessee, and laud their commitment to professional excellence and protecting the lives and the property of their fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.